

THE DEADLY DUO™

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CANADA



PIRATE SCANS!



image comics presents:

THE **DEADLY** DUO™

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Inker

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STUDIO COLOUR GROUP

Film Output

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Excedrin Headache #463

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HIGHBROW
ENTERTAINMENT



DETROIT.

MOTOR
CITY.

SCUM
CENTRAL.

AROUND ME
GATHERED ALL
MY GREATEST
FOES...

MOREGORE

SLASHER

LAFF-A-LOT

SISTER
SINISTER

BASHMASTER

THE
RIPPER

SHOVELNOSE

RADIATOR

THE
GOSSIP

DEATHJOB

I HAD TO
FACE THEM
ALL.

ALONE.



FINE
BY ME.

I'D FACED
THEM ALL
BEFORE.

AND
TRIUMPHED.

NO BIG
DEAL.

ALTHOUGH, COME TO
THINK OF IT, I FOUGHT
EACH OF THEM INDIVIDUALLY
BEFORE--

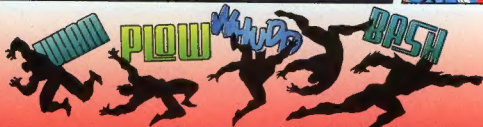
OKAY, SO I
FACED THEM
ALL TOGETHER
NOW.

SO WHAT!

I'M NO
SISSY.

BASTARDS!

I'M NOT
GOING TO
MAKE THIS
EASY!



BUT THERE ARE TIMES
IN EVERY BIG SHOT SUPER
CRIME FIGHTERS CAREER
WHEN HE DISCOVERS HE'S
BITTEN OFF MORE THEN
HE CAN CHEW.



IT'S TIMES LIKE THAT,
HE'D LIKE TO HAVE A
SCANTILY CLAD BABE
WHO CAN REALLY KICK
ASS, SAVE HIS BACON.

DART!!

GIVE YOU
A HAND, KILL
CAT?





THANKS
FOR THE
ASSIST,
BABE!

ANY
TIME,
STUD

BASH!

STEP
RIGHT UP,
CREEPS--

THERE'S
PLENTY TO
GO 'ROUND!



WATCH YOUR
BACKSIDE, SWEET-
CHEEKS!

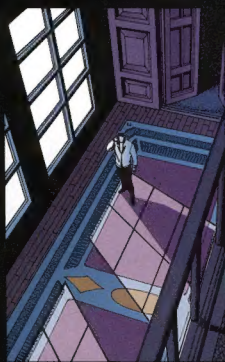
THIS GUY
ALMOST
NAILED
YOU!

MY
HERO!

RAH!











COO...

I
MADE
IT.





HEY--
WAIT A
M.NUTE

OH,
MAN...

MY APARTMENT WON'T
EVEN EXIST FOR A FEW
THOUSAND YEARS I DON'T
KNOW A MAN ALIVE HERE
AND I DON'T HAVE A
PLACE TO CRASH!



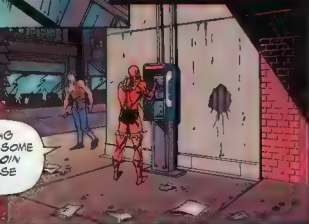
AM--HA!

PROBLEM
SOLVED!

MY GREAT-
GREAT-GREAT-
LOTS MORE GREATS-
GRANDPA LIVED
HERE.

I'M KIN!
HE'LL HAVE
TO PUT ME
UP!

GOOD THING
I BROUGHT SOME
ANCIENT COIN
FROM THESE
TIMES



MR. OSBORN! THIS
IS MARK-- I'M A
RELATIVE FROM THE
FAR FUTURE WHO'S
COME TO THE PAST
TO...

HELLO?

LOOK, I KNOW
IT SOUNDS RIDICULOUS
BUT IT'S TRUE. IF YOU
COULD JUST PUT ME
UP FOR A FEW DAYS
I...

I AM NOT A NUT--
LOOK HERE, GRAMPS--
I DON'T HAVE TO
TAKE THIS KIND
OF...

YEAH?

HELLO?

HELLO?







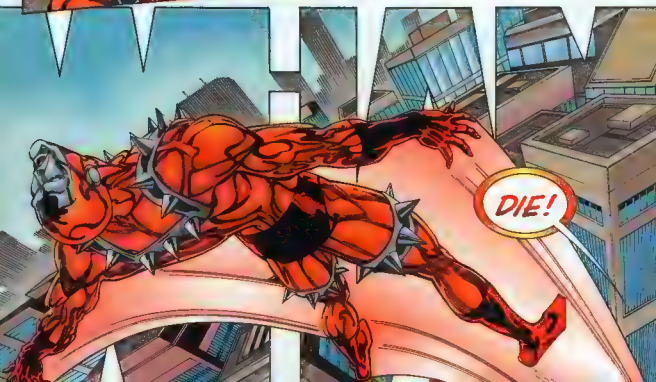
RUN,
PITIFUL
FLEAS!

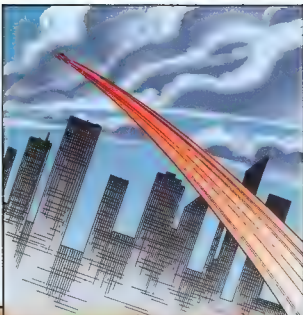
RUN!
HA HA HA
HA!

OH MY
GOD!

CEMENT
MAN
SMASH!

AAA







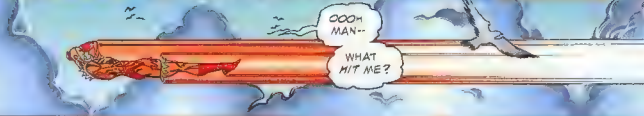


LET'S SEE
HOW YOU HANDLE
WATER, CEMENT
MAN!



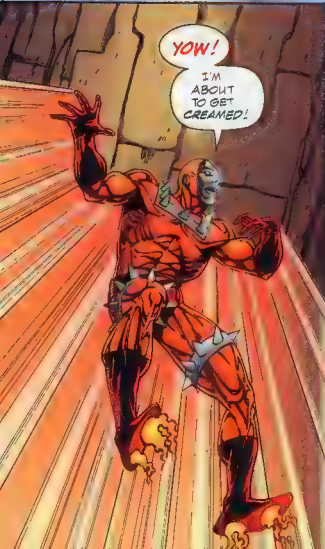
I HANDLE
IT JUST FINE,
THANKS.

BOOSH!



OOOH
MAN--

WHAT
HIT ME?



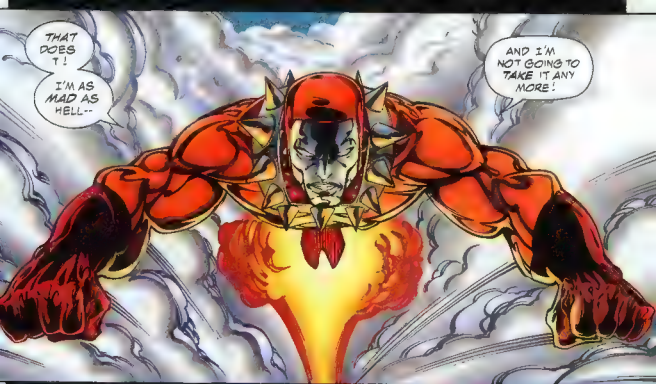
YOW!

I'M
ABOUT
TO GET
CREAMED!



SHWEE?

SPARRRRAHHHHH!



THAT
DOES
T!

I'M AS
MAD AS
HELL--

AND I'M
NOT GOING TO
TAKE IT ANY
MORE!



FIGHTING
CAREER OVER,
PUSSYCAT!

YOU DIE
NOW!

EEFAUGH!!

BA TTHRU

Spider-Man is perched on a metal ledge that is engulfed in bright orange flames. He is looking back over his shoulder with a determined expression.

THAT BIG JERK
THINKS HE'S GOT
ME CORNERED.

BUT I'M LEADING HIM
JUST WHERE I WANT HIM--
HEH HEH.

IT'S LIKE
SHOOTING FISH
IN A BARREL.



COME
N' GET
ME!

DON'T
THINK SO,
PUSSYCAT

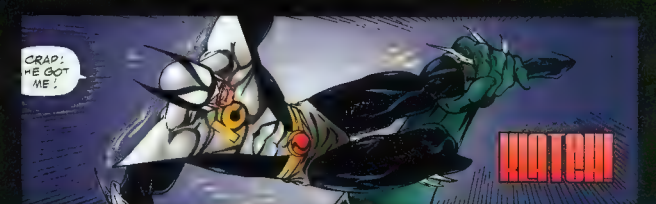
NOT THAT
STUPID



EVEN I'VE
SEEN THAT
MOVIE.

YOU CAN'T
BLAME A GUY
FOR TRYING.



A panel showing Doctor Octopus, with his green suit and mechanical tentacles, throwing Spider-Man. Spider-Man is in mid-air, looking back over his shoulder.

CRAP!
WE GOT
ME!

WATCH

A panel showing Doctor Octopus laughing maniacally, his tentacles reaching out. The background is a reddish-pink sky with white motion lines.

IT'S
ALL OVER,
PUSSYCAT...

YOU'RE
DEAD!

A large panel showing Doctor Octopus in a red and orange suit, crushing Spider-Man's head with his mechanical hand. Large sound effects 'SK' and 'KAK' are written in the background.

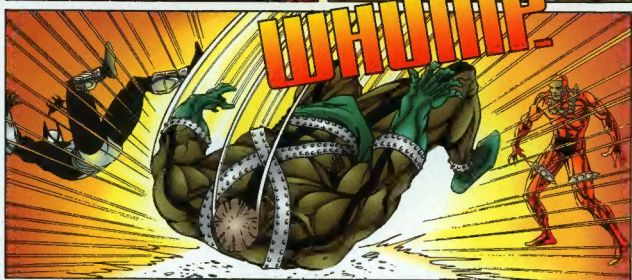
WHAT THE
HELL?

NO MORE
MISTERNICE
GUY!

THE KD
GLOVES ARE
OFF!

I'M TAKIN'
CARE OF
BUSINESS!

SOCK
'T TO ME,
BABY



GOOD JOB, SQUIRT. YOU STOPPED HIM COLD. THE DOCTORS SAY HE'LL RECOVER, BUT IT WILL TAKE A WHILE.

HE'LL HAVE TO GET HIS HEAD TOGETHER-- HEH.

OH HEH = GOOD.

HE'LL WAKE UP IN PRISON.

INNOCENTS WILL BE SAFE.

LIVES SPARED.

ALL IS WELL IN THE WORLD.

AH WELL... OUR JOB HERE IS DONE.

YOU'RE ONE HELL OF A SUPERHERO.

I'D LIKE TO WORK WITH YOU AGAIN SOMETIME.

WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM!

HOW ABOUT NOW?

EH?

I, UH... JUST ARRIVED IN THIS GREAT CITY-- IN DETROIT-- AND HAVE NO PLACE TO STAY.

I'M YOUNG, ENERGETIC, AND WILLING TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP OUT.

IT WOULD REALLY BE A
TREMENDOUS HONOR TO
WORK WITH A FAMOUS
CRIME FIGHTER LIKE
YOURSELF.

OH
YEAH?

HMMM.

WHAT'S
YOUR NAME,
KID?

UHHH... MARK
OSBORN... HMMM...
THAT'S NO
GOOD.

I GUESS
YOU COULD CALL
ME THE "AVENGER"
OR SOMETHING.

MAYBE
THE "KID
AVENGER."

THAT
WOULD BE
FINE

I GUESS.

THE KID
AVENGER.

THE
KID...
THE KID
AVENGER.

I
LIKE
IT!

WE'LL BE THE
TEAM SUPREME,
THE TERRIFIC TWO,
THE DEADLY DUO!

EVIL DOERS
PREPARE TO MEET
DEFEAT FROM THE
GUYS THAT CAN'T
BE BEAT...

... THE
DEADLY
DUO!

KILL CAT
AND THE
KID!

KILL
CAT?!

I THOUGHT
HE WAS
BATMAN!

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

I met Aaron Katz in sixth grade. We were in the same class and we both had an interest in comics and drawing. I found out shortly that he was in the process of illustrating an amateur comic book much as I had drawn them. I'd produced a couple dozen comics for my own enjoyment and Aaron was on his first but that was the start of a great friendship that has lasted to this day.

Soon, Aaron and I were staying over at each others' houses. We spent much of the time drawing comics. He'd use some of my characters and I'd use some of his and it wasn't long before we decided to collaborate on one project together. That project was The Deadly Duo.

Aaron came up with Kill-Cat, I came up with the Kid Avenger and we'd alternate on drawing issues of the comic. He went first, I did issue two and so on. As time went on, we developed a format, each issue had a guest star, (mostly taken from "real" comics, sometimes our own creations, like Aaron's Metro Man or my guy, the Dragon) most stories were pretty goofy and every issue was continued into the next. Often the "continued" element would be as simple as one guy tossing a ball at the other guy only to have it caught in the following issue. Like I said, goofy stuff.

I helped Aaron a little, adding a couple pages to one issue and drawing an occasional woman (his biggest weakness). Sometimes, we'd help each other with story ideas. Mostly, we did everything in our respective issues by ourselves.

The Deadly Duo was an entertaining comic! My issues were destroyed in a fire three years ago but Aaron still has his. Even though the art is crude and the stories inane, they're still extremely enjoyable. The high concept was strong enough and the wacky antics, wacky enough, that the book was a real hoot!

Twenty years later... Aaron's spent a good deal of time going to school and working as a carpenter and I've spent the last twelve years, or so, drawing comics. With his blessing, I've redesigned Kill-Cat and gave him a new origin. The Kid Avenger's costume has remained essentially the same as it had been, but he too needed a new origin. It's been a long time since I worked on The Deadly Duo, I spent a lot of time at DC and Marvel doing various projects but it wasn't until the formation of Image Comics that I even thought about dusting off these two and forcing them on the unsuspecting public.

It's like I never left. Unlike the Dragon, which required a major overhaul to become The Savage Dragon, The Deadly Duo remained pretty intact. If you ever have the opportunity to flip through Aaron Katz's comics you'd be surprised how faithful this new comic is to our old unpublished ones. Despite the new origins, (you'll read about the Kid Avenger next month and Kill-Cat in #3) things haven't changed all that much. Even their arch foe Cement Man (whose name was suggested by Aaron's brother Ethan—now a police officer, incidentally) is back wearing the same costume as in the old comics!

Writing and doing storytelling for The Deadly Duo

came easily. The goal, if there was one, was simple and that was to give the reader a good idea of who the characters are, where they came from and what kind of adventures they have. While much of the story lines in The Savage Dragon and Freak Force have multiple sub plots and levels of mystery, The Deadly Duo was intended to be a break from all of that. I wanted to spell everything out in a more straightforward fashion. Heaven help me if I actually had to juggle any more dangling plot lines!

Mostly, The Deadly Duo is a fun comic (or at least, it's supposed to be). Comics seem, at times, to be striving so hard to overcome their reputation as cheap entertainment for kids (although it's hard to swallow the "cheap" part these days) that they dwell too much on the grim and gritty and miss out on all the fun. I've tried to offer an alternative to the over abundant supply of solemn stories with the likes of The Savage Dragon and Freak Force. The Deadly Duo goes one step further in that direction.

Here's an introduction to the fine folks who pitched in to put together this first funnybook featuring the Deadly Duo:

Erik Larsen, writer/storyteller, writes and draws The Savage Dragon, scripts Freak Force and edits Vanguard, Star, SuperPatriot and Mighty Man. He enjoys writing about himself in the third person.

Andy Smith, penciller, drew Vanguard #6 for Image Comics and the Silver Surfer and Quasar for Marvel Comics. He's darned good, I think.

Randy Elliott, inker, inked Vanguard #6 for Image Comics, Turok for Valiant, Excalibur for Marvel and Justice League Europe for DC comics. He's Andy's inker of choice and it's easy to understand why.

Chris Eliopoulos, letterer, (and recent newlywed, sorry, girls) letters everything I work on, as well as some X-books for Marvel. I think he's tops!

Reuben Rude, (also recent newlywed—but not to Chris Eliopoulos) Antonia Kohl and Bill Zindel did the color guidelines, while I.H.O.C. (Bill, Lea Rude and Abel Mouton) did the color separations. These folks work on The Savage Dragon as well as other Highbrow/ Image comics. I couldn't be more proud of their work. They routinely deliver solid entertainment for the funnybook dollar.

As I write this, we've decided to extend The Deadly Duo mini-series from three to four issues—it seems everybody is having a good time working on it. I hope you'll stick around for the ride.

—Erik Larsen

Next Issue: Dung and the Annihilators are back! The Kid Avenger's awe-inspiring origin, plus, a special guest star from the pages of WildC.A.T.s, Maul! (Pitt couldn't make it). It's another heaping helping of hearty ha ha's from the head honcho at Highbrow. Don't miss it!